the State by non-tribals, with the help of revenue officers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Kerala has informed that un-authorised allotment of forest land to some tribal families has been made in Mathikettan of Idukki area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of Kerala has appointed a Committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary with the Revenue Secretary and Forest Secretary as members to oversee the eviction of all encroachers from the area. Also, one man Commission (Additional Chief Secretary to State Government) has been appointed by the State Government to go into all the aspects of the illegal occupation and to ascertain if there are any lapses on the part of the Government Officials.

Encroachment of forest land at Mathikettan

4708. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that virgin forest and forest land at Mathikettan in Idukki Dist. in Kerala, was massively destructed by the encroachers;

(b) whether there has been any violation of Environment Protection Act of 1986 and Forest Conservation Act of 1980 in the massive land grab here;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether Kerala Government has initiated any action to evict encroachers from the forest land; and

(e) whether the State Government has made any lapse in conserving the forest land; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Preliminary enquiry reveals that allotments of forest land to the tribals in this area by the State Government have been done in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) State Government has been requested to ascertain the extent and nature of encroachments.

(d) The Government of Kerala has appointed a Committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary with the Revenue Secretary and Forest Secretary as members to oversee the eviction of all encroachers from the area.

(e) The Government of Kerala has appointed one man Commission (Additional Chief Secretary to State Government) to go into all the aspects of the illegal occupation and to ascertain if there are any lapses on the part of the Government Officials.

Cutting of trees on Delhi-Gurgaon highway

4709. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 4000 trees would be chopped to make way for widening the highway connecting Delhi to Gurgaon on a stretch of 20-25 kms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a matter of rule, the cut trees would have to be replaced with twice the number thereof; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to get them replaced on Rao Tula Ram Marg, when there is a daily traffic of about 1.5 lakh per car unit and trees are the only source to control the pollution in the vicinity?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has informed that a proposal has been received from National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) on 8.4.2002 seeking permission